

June 2014



Coos-Carroll County FSA Updates

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Coos-Carroll County FSA Office 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

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County Executive Director:

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Program Technician:

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County Committee:

Julie Hussey - Chair
Bruce Savage - Vice-Chair
Joyce Brady - Member
Wayne Cheney - Member
Richard Fortin - Member

Next County Committee Meeting: July 17, 2014

11:00 AM

Farm Loan Office:

The Concord Center
10 Ferry St. Suite 212, Box 212
Concord, NH 03301

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Coos-Carroll County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for 2014 Crops:

November 15, 2013 – Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall-Seeded Small Grains
January 2, 2014 – Honey
January 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches, Nectarines
February 15, 2014 - Maple Sap
May 31, 2014 – Ornamental Nursery
July 15, 2014 – Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported

Phone (603) - 223-6003
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**NH Acting Farm Loan
Manager:**

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by July 15th.

A late file fee will not be assessed for any 2014 crops with a final reporting date on or after October 1, 2013. The late file fee will be waived until December 31, 2014.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Coos-Carroll County FSA Office.

Save Time – Make An Appointment With FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. Please contact Coos-Carroll County FSA Office. Our phone number is 603-788-4602, Ext 2. Our fax number is 603-788-2538.

USDA Announces Programs to Conserve Sensitive Land and Help Beginning Farmers

Programs that Allow Producers to Protect Land and Help New, Minority and Veteran Farmers Get their Start in Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that farmers, ranchers and landowners committed to protecting and conserving environmentally sensitive land may now sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The Secretary also announced that retiring farmers enrolled in CRP could receive incentives to transfer a portion of their land to beginning, disadvantaged or veteran farmers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP).

“CRP is one of the largest voluntary conservation programs in the country,” said Vilsack. “This initiative helps farmers and ranchers lead the nation in preventing soil erosion, improving water quality and restoring wildlife habitat, all of which will make a difference for future generations.”

Vilsack continued, “The average age of farmers and ranchers in the United States is 58 years, and twice as many are 65 or older compared to those 45 or younger. The cost of buying land is one of the biggest barriers to many interested in getting started in agriculture. The Transition Incentives Program is very useful as we work to help new farmers and ranchers get started.”

The Conservation Reserve Program provides incentives to producers who utilize conservation methods on environmentally-sensitive lands. For example, farmers are monetarily compensated for establishing long-term vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water

quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

CRP consists of a “continuous” and “general” sign-up period. Continuous sign up for the voluntary program starts June 9. Under continuous sign-up authority, eligible land can be enrolled in CRP at any time with contracts of up to 10 to 15 years in duration. In lieu of a general sign-up this year, USDA will allow producers with general CRP contracts expiring this September to have the option of a one-year contract extension. USDA will also implement the 2014 Farm Bill’s requirement that producers enrolled through general sign-up for more than five years can exercise the option to opt-out of the program if certain other conditions are met. In addition, the new grassland provisions, which will allow producers to graze their enrolled land, will enable producers to do so with more flexibility.

The Transition Incentives Program provides two additional years of payments for retired farmers and ranchers who transition expiring CRP acres to socially disadvantaged, military veteran, or beginning producers who return the land to sustainable grazing or crop production. Sign up will also begin June 9. TIP funding was increased by more than 30 percent in the 2014 Farm Bill, providing up to \$33 million through 2018.

As part of the 2014 Farm Bill, participants meeting specific qualifications may have the opportunity to terminate their CRP contract during fiscal year 2015 if the contract has been in effect for a minimum of five years and if other conditions are also met.

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers CRP, will coordinate the various CRP program opportunities. For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA county office or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA’s Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office.

USDA Kicks Off The 2014 "Feds Feed Families" Nationwide Food Drive

USDA kicked off the 6th annual "Feds Feed Families" Campaign on June 2, 2014.

The food drive is an annual event in which Federal employees, nationwide, collect food for distribution by food banks, food pantries, and shelters.

The Feds Feed Families program started in 2009. The 2014 food drive officially began on June 2 and will run

through August 27.

All Federal agencies across the country participate in the campaign and Federal employees are asked to donate non-perishable food items throughout the summer. Donations are given to local food banks across the country – having a positive impact to help food banks address food insecurity. Secretary Vilsack noted that the latest USDA estimates show that in 2012, food insecurity affected 14.5 percent of American households at some point.

If you are interested in making a donation to the annual "Feds Feed Families" Food Drive, please contact your local USDA Service Center at 603-788-4602, Ext. 2. For more information on the Feds Feed Families campaign, please visit: <http://www.usda.gov/fedsfeedfamilies>.

Selected Interest Rates For June

Farm Operating, Direct including Microloans: 2.25%
Farm Ownership, Direct: 4.0%
Farm Ownership, Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer:: 1.5%
Emergency Loan: 3.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loans, 7 yr.: 2.25%

Dates To Remember

July 4 - Independence Day, Office Closed
July 15 - Crop Reporting Deadline
July 17 - County Committee Meeting - 11:00 AM
August 1 - County Committee Nomination Deadline

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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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